



# Wisconsin Bio Industry Alliance

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## Welcome and Updates from the WBIA

Greetings, and welcome to the Wisconsin Bio Industry Alliance's bimonthly newsletter!

The WBIA's goal has always been to grow several sectors of Wisconsin's bio industry. As you know, our first major push these past few years has been growing the bio fuels sector of the Alliance. We've worked with ethanol producers from across the state, as well as other key partners, to grow this important industry. Work we've done to grow this area includes our weekly Tuesday Truths and Biodiesel Basics, and our regularly scheduled meetings.

In addition to those efforts, we have begun to focus more energy on growing bio power. This year

we've held two meetings of the Bio Power group, with another to come soon. We are excited to see this sector continue to grow.

We have several projects planned for the next few months, and we look forward to working with you to advance the bio industry in this state. As always, please let us know what we can do to assist you in your projects and endeavors.

You are a valuable part of the Alliance and we would not be as successful if it were not for your support and participation.

--Joshua Morby, Executive Director

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## Launch of WBIA Expert Database

In an effort to highlight the great work that many of you are doing, we have recently launched an Expert Database. The database includes short biographies of experts in a variety of fields related to Wisconsin's bio industry. We have sent out the database to various members of the media so that when they need a quote or information from an expert for a story, they can contact us and we can put them in touch with the right person.

If you would like to see the database, please go to:

<http://www.wisconsinbioindustry.com/WBIAExpertDatabase.pdf>

If you would like to be included in the database, please contact Jason Rae at [rae@nation-consulting.com](mailto:rae@nation-consulting.com).

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## New Legislative Proposals Could Help Spur the Development of Biomass Use in Electric Generation

By Cynthia L. Buchko, a Shareholder at Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.  
Phillip R. Bower, an Associate at Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.



In 2008, the Special Committee on Domestic Biofuels (“Special Committee”), a bipartisan committee consisting of six legislators and thirteen public members, was created to: (1) evaluate the economic and environmental costs and benefits of domestically produced fuels derived from biomass; (2) review state and federal policies to promote the development of the industry and infrastructure for the production and distribution of such fuels; (3) recommend state policies to address any deficiencies in existing policies; and (4) recommend state policies to encourage minimum targets for ethanol-blended transportation fuel sales.

At its sixth and final meeting on March 11, 2009, the Special Committee voted unanimously to recommend the introduction of fourteen bills to the Wisconsin Legislature. See <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/committees/study/2008/BIO/index.htm> (website where text of all fourteen draft bills may be found). Three of the draft bills in particular could help spur the development of biomass use in electric generation.

Draft bill WLC 0356/2 relates to financial assistance for biomass projects. If passed, the bill would expand several existing state financial assistance programs to further support the establishment, production, harvest, storage and transport of biomass feedstocks and the development and construction of biorefineries, defined as facilities that convert biomass into fuels and products, including biomass fuels for use in electric generation.

If passed, draft bill WLC 0357/2 would require the Department of Revenue (“DOR”) to define the term “agricultural use” to include the growing of short rotation woody crops, including poplars and willows. Short rotation woody crops are generally considered “energy crops,” meaning the crop is planted and harvested specifically for use as a fuel. As a result of this change, the DOR would be required to apply the use value assessment method to all short rotation woody crops that meet the definition, regardless of the end use of the crop. Treatment of land as “agricultural land” generally results in a substantial property tax savings.

Finally, draft bill WLC 0358/2, if passed, would require the Office of Energy Independence to coordinate the preparation of a biennial strategic “bioenergy” (*i.e.*, biomass) feedstock assessment with the Departments of Administration, Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and Natural Resources and the Public Service Commission. The assessment would examine the current and potential biomass feedstocks available in Wisconsin, the markets for (and uses of) biomass feedstocks, the key factors that influence the supply of and demand for biomass feedstocks, and the impacts of the increased use of biomass in Wisconsin for energy production. The biennial assessment could affect future energy policies and directives in Wisconsin.

The draft bills summarized above, together with the other eleven draft bills prepared by the Special Committee, will now move to the Joint Legislative Council. The Joint Legislative Council will decide whether the draft bills will enter the Legislature and, if so, which standing Legislative committee will oversee each bill.

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## Member Profile: Sanimax is Focused on **BioReturn™**

Sanimax defines the work it does with one word – BioReturn. It combines “bio”, the Greek word for life, and return, meaning to give back, to offer a picture of Sanimax’s unique approach to environmental ethics. Sanimax reclaims materials that would otherwise go to waste, renews them, and returns them back to the market as useful products.

Their products and services include: agriculture and animal nutrition, energy, leather, collection services, and maintenance services.

One of Sanimax’s most exciting endeavors is their biodiesel production. Their DeForest biodiesel facility is the largest in the state, producing more than 20 million gallons of fuel each year from a number of materials, including animal tallow and

recycled vegetable oils. Sanimax’s low-emission biodiesel is 100% biodegradable. With their double-refining process they are able to take more impurities out, and even completely remove methanol.

Sanimax was born in 2005 out of three companies with long, rich histories – Quebec-based Sanimal, the Wisconsin-based Anamax Group, and Ontario-based bi-pro marketing limited. Since 1881, 20 Canadian and American family businesses have merged to make Sanimax what it is today – a forward thinking family company with a strong reputation and vision for environmental stability.

For more information, please feel free to visit <http://www.sanimax.com>.

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## Don’t Forget: **WBIA Meeting on Wednesday, June 10**

**Meeting: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Location:**

Michael Best & Friedrich  
One South Pinckney  
Lower Level Conference Room  
Madison, WI 53703



The special guest for the meeting will be **Dr. Randy Shaver**, professor at UW-Madison in Dairy Science, with a research emphasis on nutrition of dairy cattle. Earlier this year, Dr. Shaver traveled through Chile conducting feeding seminars and assessing the market potential for distiller’s dried grains (DDGS) as a part of a U.S. Grains Council trade mission. Members of the mission held sessions with local farmers talking about the benefits of using DDGS. Currently, Chile imports between 80,000-100,000 tons of DDGS per year. This mission helps to open the door to a large market for US-produced DDGS.

If you plan on attending, RSVP to Jason Rae at [rae@nation-consulting.com](mailto:rae@nation-consulting.com) or 414.344.1733.

As we move forward, be sure to keep in your calendar August 12 for the next WBIA meeting.

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## Member Profile: J.F. Ahern Literally Helping to Build the Bio Industry

As one of the largest, most respected mechanical contractors in the nation, J.F. Ahern Co. has shown itself to be a leader in the alternative and renewable energy industry. With unique expertise in biofuel and power piping systems, the company has worked on numerous ethanol, power plant, biodiesel, biogasoline, landfill gas, and geothermal projects.

J.F. Ahern's extensive resume even includes the 16,000 square-foot biodiesel plant in DeForest, Wisconsin, for fellow WBIA member Sanimax, which produces more than 20 million gallons of biofuel every year.

"Biofuel is an alternative fuel industry that is growing in Wisconsin. We are very happy to have been involved in this project, and for the opportunity to work for Sanimax," said the project's manager John George.

Sanimax is not the only ethanol plant that J.F. Ahern has helped build. They have a strong resume of helping to build the bio industry in Wisconsin - literally building the facilities and infrastructure, including the plants for Ace Ethanol in Stanley and United Ethanol in Milton.

Ahern's full line of services includes: fire protection, HVAC, mechanical service, industrial/process piping, biofuels, plumbing, energy solutions, water/wastewater, and pipe fabrication.

Begun as a small steam heat and plumbing shop in 1880, J.F. Ahern has grown to complete projects from several thousand dollars to over \$20 million. The company has a customer satisfaction consistently in the 98% range, with sales in 2008 exceeding \$212 million. Headquartered in Fond du Lac, J.F. Ahern has proven to be a great asset in Wisconsin's growing biofuels industry.



Ace Ethanol Plant, Stanley WI



United Ethanol Plant, Milton, WI



Sanimax Plant, DeForest WI